

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APP. NO. 09/854,916

REMARKS

Summary Of The Office Action

Claims 1-41 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lea, (USP 6,052,750); and, further in view of Tajima (JP6-169440).

Claims 14-19 and 24 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Analysis of the Claim Rejections

Applicant submits that claims 1-13, 20-23 and 25-41 are patentable over Lea and Tajima. One reason for this is that Lea and Tajima, taken either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a base module which displays selection information for selecting one of the plurality of function-extending modules.

In more detail, the present application describes an embodiment of the invention which uses a module rack into which a plurality of function-extending modules are detachably inserted and a base module displaying selection information for selecting one of the plurality of function-extending modules (e.g., icons indicating the plurality of function-extending modules as shown in Figure 14 and described in the related description), so that user can easily select one of the plurality of function-extending modules, which are detachably inserted in the module rack.

However, the cited reference, i.e. Lea, is directed to a method for ensuring future upgradability and expandability of devices in a home audio video network, and only discloses an exemplary UI display (e.g., a television screen) for a device (e.g., a camcorder) and does not disclose or teach a base module which displays selection information for selecting one of the

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plurality of function-extending modules, which is a feature of independent claims 1, 25, 39, 40 and 41.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

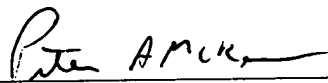
Respectfully submitted,

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